

BOARD OF FINANCE

December 17, 2008

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

Members Present: First Selectman McCarty, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Volain, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Piccirillo, Ms. Brown, Mr. Monico

Also Present: Assistant Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski
Director of Finance Thomas J. Morrison

The following materials were either mailed to the members or distributed at this time.

1. Agenda – December 10, 2008
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2008
3. November 30, 2008 - Report of Budget/Special Funds
- Report of Revenue
- Board of Education Accounting
4. Draft Resolution, Todd Drive and Todd Drive South/Pine Brook Drainage - \$1,450,000
5. Draft Resolution, Valley Service Road Extension, \$2,150,000
6. Budget Guidance Letter dated December 1, 2008
7. Contract Addendum dated October 15, 2008 – Supervisors Union
8. Police Union Contract
9. Revised Budget Making Schedule FY 2009-2010
10. Department Head Classification/Compensation Study

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2008, Mr. Doheny moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Piccirillo.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Mr. Piccirillo made a motion to amend the order of the agenda to move the resolutions under New Business to Old Business.

Seconded by, Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

OLD BUSINESS

DRAFT RESOLUTION, TODD DRIVE AND TODD DRIVE SOUTH/PINE BROOK,
\$1,600,000

Mr. Morrison thanked the Board members for amending the agenda. Mr. Morrison then briefly explained the resolutions stating that these projects have been pending for a while and if we don't act on them we could risk losing the grant funds. He then introduced Mr. Jonathan Bodwell our Town Engineer who went over the project in detail. He explained that the area has been developed extensively and that the size of the existing drainage pipes is undersized which causes

severe flooding. The State will commit to only \$600,000 and the Town will have to bond \$1,000,000. A condition of the approval is that if the State does not provide the funds, the Town will not pursue the project or the bonding. Further discussion followed with board members asking several questions.

Mr. Piccirillo then moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of North Haven appropriate \$1,600,000 for design, acquisition, installation and construction of drainage and related improvements in the Todd Drive and Todd Drive South/Pine Brook areas of the Town, contemplated to be completed substantially in accordance with the report entitled "Drainage & Hydraulic Analysis Report, Todd Drive and Todd Drive South/Pine Brook Areas, North Haven, CT", dated March 2006 and prepared by Diversified Technology Consultants; and that the Town authorize the issuance of bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 to finance the appropriation. The funding for this project will include \$600,000 grant assistance from State budget funds and a local match of \$1,000,000. The grant funds will be on a reimbursement basis.

Seconded by, Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

DRAFT RESOLUTION, VALLEY SERVICE ROAD EXTENSION, \$2,150,000

Mr. Bodwell went over the project in detail. He explained that he has been advised by the State to move quickly on this project. The project will take five years and should be completed by 2011. As with the prior project, if the State does not provide the funding, the Town will not pursue the project or the bonding.

Ms. Brown then moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of North Haven appropriate \$2,150,000 for design and construction of improvements to Valley Service Road. The project will include extending Valley Service Road from the existing cul de sac by approximately 950 linear feet, reconstruction of the existing road as needed to accommodate the extension, and related improvements to the existing road and the new extension as needed; and that the Town authorize the issuance of bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,150,000 to finance the appropriation. The funding for the project will include a \$1.6 million grant from the State and a local match for the balance of funds. The State grant will be on a reimbursement basis.

Seconded by, Ms. McCarty.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

STATUS REPORT: FINANCIAL AUDIT FYE 6/30/08

Mr. Swinkoski stated that all the field work has been completed and the draft report was being put together. The final report will be prepared by December 31st.

STATUS REPORT: 2008-2009 BUDGET

Mr. Swinkoski said that all the departments have submitted their budget requests and the Finance Office is in the process of assembling the budget.

OTHER

Mr. Volain congratulated First Selectman McCarty on the agreement reached with Covanta and said he thought it was a prudent decision. First Selectman McCarty said that five towns (Hamden, Cheshire, Wallingford, Meriden and North Haven) jointly signed a contract with Covanta. A Town Meeting was held on December 15 and the Town unanimously voted in favor of the contract with Covanta.

Mr. Doheny felt very strongly that this should have been brought before the Board of Finance first and then to a Town Meeting. He also said that he was not happy that information was withheld from the Board of Finance during the negotiations with CRRA.

Mr. Volain disagreed and said the resolution of the contract did not fall under the authority of the Board of Finance. It was voted on by the Board of Selectmen and then went to a Town Meeting. He felt it was handled appropriately.

Further discussion followed with Mr. Piccirillo recommending that the Board members end the discussion since it was going no where. There was no objection from Board members.

NEW BUSINESSREPORT OF BUDGET/SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACCOUNTING NOVEMBER 30, 2008

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of November were 54.7%. Further discussion followed. These reports were accepted as presented.

OTHER

Mr. Morrison spoke at length about the raises that were given to four positions in the Supervisor's Union. He went through a chronology of events that led to the decision. Mr. Volain asked Mr. Morrison if the Town had a moral obligation to approve these raises.

Mr. Morrison stated that not only did the Town have a moral obligation but the Town had exposure of incurring legal fees, back salaries and penalties.

Mr. Doheny wanted to know how these raises would be funded and felt it should have been brought before the Board of Finance for approval. Mr. Volain explained that it did not need Board of Finance approval because they were not expending additional funds. The current budget has the funds to pay for these increases. He also referred to the Town Charter, Section 801 which states that salary/personnel issues fall under the authority of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Doheny interpreted the same paragraph differently. He felt it was very specific, the authority to hire town personnel lies with the First Selectmen, only if (emphasis added) "...the appropriation of compensation has been made by the Board of Finance and/or the town meeting...". He stated that we have a line item budget which annually details the salary of every town employee. Therefore, it is not enough for the First Selectman to presume sufficient funds exist within a line item (salary related or not) to pay for the raises, the raises either must have been already appropriated within the budget or they require approval by the Board of Finance.

Mr. Monico asked Mr. Morrison if there were an executed agreement prior to the contract addendum dated October 15, 2008 and if so, requested a copy of that agreement. According to the contract addendum an agreement was executed in February 2007.

Further discussion followed. Mr. Piccirillo then made a motion to end the discussion since it did not fall under the purview of the Board of Finance.

Seconded by, Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - No	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - No
	McCarty - Yes		

Mr. Monico requested a complete copy of the Department Head Salary Survey. He said that the handout that the Board received was just a summary.

Mr. Morrison said he would get the information to the Board members. First Selectman McCarty said that she will get the Board members a copy of the department head job descriptions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 15 minutes with several residents asking questions and making recommendations/suggestions.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Volain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		